

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 IO-13
/091 W

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R 040930Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 1684

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: DOMEI'S 1977 CONVENTION

SUMMARY: DOMEI, JAPAN'S 2.4 MILLION MEMBER PREDOMINANTLY
PRIVATE-SECTOR LABOR CENTER, HELD SMOOTHLY-RUN, NON-
CONTENTIOUS ANNUAL CONVENTION JANUARY 28-29.

ISSUE OF DOMEI AFFILIATED SEAMEN'S UNION SUPPORT FOR
COMMUNIST CANDIDATES, WHICH DOMINATED LAST YEAR'S
CONVENTION, DID NOT SURFACE THIS YEAR.

CONVENTION SERVED PRIMARILY AS SYMBOLIC

EXERCISE TO: 1) PUBLICIZE DOMEI CLAIM TO LEADERSHIP

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OF JAPANESE LABOR MOVEMENT, PARTICULARLY 1977 SPRING
WAGE NEGOTIATIONS; (2) CHAMPION DOMEI-BACKED
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP) AND ITS ANTI-COMMUNIST
"REFORMIST" POLICIES; AND (3) EMPHASIZE, BY MEANS OF
CONSPICUOUS NUMBER OF UNION GUESTS FROM ICFTU,
US, AUSTRALIA, AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES ON STAGE,
DOMEI'S CLOSE TIES WITH UNIONS IN JAPAN'S MAJOR

NON-COMMUNIST TRADING PARTNERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DOMEI CHAIRMAN, SEIJI AMAIKE, OUTLINED MAIN THEMES OF CONVENTION IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS. HE DEVOTED UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF TIME TO JAPANESE POLITICAL SCENE (COMMENT: IN PAST, DOMEI CONVENTIONS HAVE STRESSED ECONOMIC ISSUES TO HIGHLIGHT DIFFERENCES WITH "POLITICIZED" SOHYO) HE POINTED TO GAINS SCORED IN RECENT LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS BY DOMEI-BACKED DSPAS EVIDENCE OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR REFORM-MINDED MIDDLE OF THE ROAD POLITICS IN CONTRAST TO "COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES" ON FAR LEFT AND CONSERVATIVE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) ON RIGHT. HE STRESSED THAT DOMEI WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING ONLY DSP ENDORSED CANDIDATES BUT HE HINTED THAT DSP IN NEXT ELECTION WOULD ADOPT "BARTER POLICY" I.E. EXCHANGE PLEDGES OF SUPPORT WITH OTHER MODERATE POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES IN ORDER TO FURTHER TREND TOWARDS MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD GOVERNMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMAIKE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT JAPAN SEAMEN'S UNION (KAIIN), WHOSE ENDORSEMENT OF SINGLE COMMUNIST CANDIDATE IN DECEMBER ELECTION WAS MAJOR ISSUE AT 1976 CONVENTION, WAS RETURNING TO THE FOLD. (COMMENT: IN POST-ELECTION CONVENTION, KAIIN DEFEATED TWO OF THREE PRO-COMMUNIST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS RUNNING FOR ELECTION AND REFRAINED FROM ENDORSING ANY BUT DSP CANDIDATES FOR FORTHCOMING UPPER HOUSE ELECTION).

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2. WITH RESPECT TO JAPANESE ECONOMY, AMAIKE COMMITTED DOMEI TO LEADING ROLE IN 1977 SPRING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS, PROPOSED JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE WITH INTERNATIONAL METAL WORKERS FEDERATION-JAPAN COUNCIL (IMF-JC); AND MADE UNCOMMONLY SHARP ATTACK ON A BIG BUSINESS SPOKESMAN, THE FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (NIKKEIREN) FOR ITS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED POSITION THAT MANAGEMENT SHOULD NO LONGER TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANNUAL CONSUMER PRICE INCREASES IN MAKING WAGE HIKE OFFERS. WHILE SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF GRANTING THE RIGHT TO STRIKE TO PUBLIC CORPORATION EMPLOYEES, AMAIKE SAID THAT SOHYO'S PROPENSITY FOR ENGAGING IN ILLEGAL STRIKES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR DOMEI TO COOPERATE WITH SOHYO IN FORTHCOMING "SPRING WAGE STRUGGLE," AMAIKE ALSO SUPPORTED PRINCIPLE OF ORGANIZED LABOR'S PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT OF ENTERPRISES AS MEANS OF INSURING "COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION" IN NEW ERA OF LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT HE MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO IMPLEMENT

THESE PRINCIPLES. AMAIKE ALSO ENDORSED CONCEPT OF LABOR UNION UNITY BUT SAID IT MUST OCCUR FIRST IN PRIVATE SECTOR AND REJECTED SOHYO'S VIEW OF ONE ALL EMBRACING CONFEDERATION.

3. ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR SCENE, AMAIKE SAID BOMEI ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITS MEMBERSHIP IN ICFTU AND WOULD CONTINUE ITS COOPERATION WITH OTHER FREE LABOR MOVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE AFL-CIO, IN PROMOTING DEVELOPMZJ OF DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS IN ASIA. AMAIKE NOTED THAT LABOR MUST MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES AND, AS EXAMPLE, ANNOUNCED THAT DOMEI AND AFL-CIO WOULD CONSULT IN MAY IN WASHINGTON ON NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, NOTABLY ECONOMIC EFFECT OF US 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE ON JAPANESE FISHERMEN.

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4. AFTER ONLY PRO FORMA DEBATE, CONVENTION APPROVED DOMEI 1977 ACTION PLAN WHICH INCLUDED ALL SUGGESTIONS MADE BY AMAIKE IN KEY NON
E633:#. PLAN CALLS FOR
AVERAGE 1977 WAGE INCREASE OF 13 PERCENT, AND DEMANDS THAT GOJ TAKE SUCH ANTI-RECESSIONARY MEASURES AS OVERALL TAX CUT OF ONE TRILLION YEN, GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE TO CURB PRICE (BUT NOT WAGE) INCREASES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SO-CALLED EMPLOYMENT STABILIZATION FUND AIMED AT PREVENTING LAYOFFS IN PRIVATE SECTOR BY GOJ SUBSIDY OF PAYROLLS OF FIRMS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY. TO REACH WAGE TARGETS, CONVENTION APPROVED AMAIKE'S PROPOSAL TO FORM WITH IMF-JC A "PRIVATE SECTOR WAGE STRUGGLE LIAISON COUNCIL."

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 IO-13

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-----041455Z 058147 /43

R 040930Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 1684

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

5. TO UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO
RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN UNIONS, DOMEI INVITED
UNCOMMONLY LARGE NUMBER OF US AND ASIAN TRADE UNION
LEADERS AS WELL AS PRESIDENTS OF ICFTU AND ARO, AND
ALLOTTED ONE QUARTER OF TOTJILKUVOQBRON TIMYDQT#
THEIR SPEECHES. GUESTS INCLUDED INDONESIAN FBSI
PRESIDENT SUNDONO, HISTADRUT ASIAN REP SIEW, AUSTRALIAN
ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE AND AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENT
FINLEY. IN COOPERATION WITH GOJ FINANCED
JAPAN PRODUCTIVITY CENTER (JPC) DOMEI, AS PART OF
ITS NEW INVITATIONAL DIPLOMACY OFFERED SEVERAL
LOWER RANKING UNION OFFICIALS AS WELL AS TWO AFL-CIO
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INTERNATIONAL BUREAU STAFFERS TEN-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN
AND MEETINGS WITH ITS PRINCIPAL AFFILIATES PRIOR TO
OPENING OF CONVENTION.

6. VISIT OF AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATES
ATTRACTED SOME MEDIA ATTENTION. IN HIS CAPACITY AS
AMALGAMATED CLOTHING AND TEXTILE WORKERS PRESIDENT,
FINLEY HELD TALKS WITH JAPANESE COUNTERPART ZEN SEN DOMEI
ABOUT MULTINATIONAL FIBER AGREEMENT AND IN PRESS
INTERVIEW SAID HE SEEKING JAPANESE UNION SUPPORT FOR
REDUCTION OF ANNUAL AUTOMATIC QUOTA INCREASE DURING
CURRENT RENEGOTIATION OF MFA. PRESS ALSO CARRIED
SUMMARIES OF TALKS GIVEN AT USIS'S TOKYO AND OSAKA
AMERICA CENTERS BY AFL-CIO STAFFERS ELLENBERGER
AND ANDERSON, IN WHICH THEY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT

AFL-CIO HAD NOT CHANGED ITS MIND ABOUT DESIRABILITY
OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO.

7. AAFLI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PALADINO USED OCCASION
TO HOLD LONG-POSTPONED TRIPARTITE MEETING
WITH AMAIKE AND ARO SEC GEN NAIR ON SECURING
FORMAL ARO ENDORSEMENT OF JOINTLY SPONSORED
DOMEI-AAFLI LABOR PROGRAMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN
NATIONS. PALADINO TOLD US THAT IF ARO MEETING IN MANILA IN
APRIL DID NOT FIRMLY APPROVE THIS EFFORT, HE
PREPARED TO RECOMMEND AT AFL-CIO DOMEI MEETING IN
MAY THAT THEY SEEK DIFFERENT FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATIVE
EFFORT.

8. MOST ATTENTION PAID TO ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE, WHO,
IN FIRST VISIT TO JAPAN, MET WITH MINISTERS OF LABOR,
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS WELL AS
BUSINESS LEADERS. HAWKE TOOK ISSUE WITH
STATEMENTS EMERGING FROM RECENT AUSTRALIA-JAPAN
MINISTERIAL TALKS IN TOKYO THAT IRRATIONAL ACTIONS BY
MILITANT AUSTRALIAN UNIONS NEGATIVE FACTOR IN JAPAN-AUSTRALIA
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RELATIONS. HAWKE'S STATESMAN-LIKE PRESENTATION
OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR'S CASE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD
TO SHIPBUILDING, AND HIS CONSTANT ASSERTION THAT
AUSTRALIAN UNIONS ALSO FAVORED EXPORT TRADE WITH
JAPAN ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE PRESS ATTENTION.

9. COMMENT CONVENTION WAS WELL STAGE-MANAGED
AND LARGELY SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE IMAGE OF
DOMEI AS UNIFIED, RESPONSIBLE LEADER OF JAPANESE
LABOR MOVEMENT, PRINCIPAL PROMOTER OF CONSTRUCTIVE
MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD ALTERNATIVE TO LDP RULE,
AND MAIN POINT OF CONTACT WITH FREE-WORLD TRADE
UNIONS. IN -HOUSE DISPUTES WERE SWEEPED UNDER RUG. MOST
STRIKING FEATURE OF CONVENTION WAS VIGOROUS DENUNCIATION
OF JCP AS "REVOLUTIONARIES" AIMING AT DESTRUCTION
OF JAPAN'S CONSUMER SOCIETY. UPBEAT MOOD CREATED
IN LARGE PART BY DSP'S SUCCESS IN DECEMBER ELECTION,
FOR WHICH CONVENTION SPEAKERS TOOK CONSIDERABLE
CREDIT. CONVENTION ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT DOMEI, AT
LEAST UNDER AMAIKE, HAS NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING
SOHYO OR IMF-JC TO DOMINATE EITHER LABOR UNITY
MOVES OR SPRING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS. IT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN WHETHER THIS EUPHORIA SURVIVES THE SPRING
NEGOTIATIONS (AT THIS POINT INCREASE OF MORE THAN
TEN PERCENT APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY) OR SUMMER
UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS (WHERE DSP TRYING TO FIELD ONLY
TEN CANDIDATES AND NOT CERTAIN TO ELECT EVEN

THAT SMALL NUMBER). IN ANY CASE, CONVENTION PART OF
CONTINUING EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, AT
AGE 13, DOMEI IS VIGOROUS LABOR ORGANIZATION CLEARLY
DETERMINED TO PLAY EVEN MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN
JAPANESE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.
HODGSON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3402854
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOMEI'S 1977 CONVENTION SUMMARY: DOMEI, JAPAN'S 2.4 MILLION MEMBER PREDOMINANTLY PRIVATE-SECTOR LABOR CENTER, HELD SMOOTHLY-RUN, NO
TAGS: ELAB, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0cbb97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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